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**Testimony of Representative Carlo Leone in Support of H.B. No. 6207 AN ACT REQUIRING
THE IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES WITH
RESPECT TO CERTAIN OUT-OF-STATE MOTOR VEHICLE CONVICTIONS**

Monday, February 28, 2011

Transportation Committee Public Hearing

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrera, Members of the Transportation Committee, for the record my name is Carlo Leone, State Representative for the 148th District. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of my constituent Eagle Asher and his mother Sandra Asher from Stamford.

This legislation would amend 14-111n of the general statutes to require that any person with a Connecticut license who is convicted of a serious motor vehicle violation in another state to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) within thirty days. It would also require the DMV to concurrently penalize such person within thirty days of receiving such notice.

The reason I have introduced this legislation is to reduce the period of time that elapses between when a penalty for an out of state motor vehicle conviction is served out of state and when that penalty is served in Connecticut. In this case in particular, Asher's driving privileges were suspended in New York for a DWI conviction from October 8, 2008, but was not notified that his license would be suspended in Connecticut until September 29, 2010 almost 2 years after the original conviction. This is despite the fact that the state of New York notified the Connecticut DMV of the conviction as early as November 2009, which is still almost a year after the conviction. During this time Asher was under the impression from the state of New York that his license would be suspended in Connecticut concurrently with his suspension in New York, but this never happened.

This left him having to serve a penalty for another year, for the lack of judgement he showed almost two years ago and that is just not fair. I can see in this young gentleman's case he is remorseful and through the ordeal has suffered the necessary legal consequences already. In fact this current suspension has limited his ability to find work that requires him to travel now that he has graduated college. His mother and he are also aware of the understanding that this legislation might not be retroactive to help him with his particular case, but they still wanted to fight for a change in the law so

others down the road don't have to go through the same ordeal. They have both tremendously learned a lot through this process and I think have suffered enough.

Right now the only current requirement under our state statutes (14-111n) is that DMV must take action once it "receives a report from any member jurisdiction of the conviction." Again in this case it was almost a year after when Connecticut was notified. The way this legislation was written I am placing the burden on the driver to notify the DMV there is a conviction as to not place an additional cost or burden on the department having to check the national registry or communicate with the other state. We already do something very similar with consent agreements with respect to showing proof of auto insurance by putting the onus of the driver. Upon notifying the state of such conviction I believe 30 days notice would be sufficient to take appropriate action.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on my constituent's behalf and I look forward to working with the committee to further develop this legislation.